

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 8, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 2 is canceled. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25, and 28 have been amended. Claims 1 and 3-30 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 20, 25, and 28 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed April 8, 2005, the specification is objected to because the abstract is not limited to 150 words. A new abstract is submitted which is less than 150 words.

The specification is further objected to because the Examiner states that the "second non-return valve" lacks antecedent basis. Paragraph 0035 discloses a first valve element 7 and a second valve element 8. Furthermore, the last four lines of paragraph 0036 disclose that the construction of first and second valve elements 7 and 8 is identical and that only one valve is described. Since the specification clearly describes two valves 7, 8, the specification provides antecedent basis for a second non-return valve.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the objections to the specification should now be withdrawn.

Claims 2-10, 12-17, and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, because there is no antecedent basis for "said first step" in claim 2 and "the smallest step" in claim 4. The limitations of claim 2 are incorporated in claim 1 and are amended to recite --said smallest step--, which has proper antecedent basis. Claim 4 is amended to recite --a smallest step--. In view of the amendments, the rejections of claims 2-10, 12-17, and 20-24, as being indefinite, should now be withdrawn.

Claims 7-10, 13-16, 20, 21, 25, 26, and 28-30 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and if the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, are overcome. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 7 and intervening claim 2. Claims 20, 25 and 28 are each rewritten in independent form including the base claim limitations and any intervening claim limitations. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 20, 25, and 28 should now be allowable as incorporating allowable subject matter.

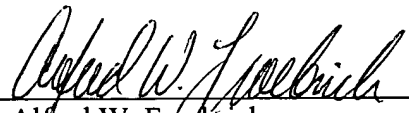
Dependent claims 3-19, 21-24, 26-27, and 29-30, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1, 20, 25, and 28, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as are independent claims 1, 20, 25, and 28, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

Payment in the amount \$200.00 is enclosed in payment for the addition of 1 new independent claim in excess of three.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any additional fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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